

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**JOHN LAIRD**Representing the 27th Assembly District  
Portions of Monterey, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties**eNews Update****December 8, 2006**(Online at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/enewsletter.htm>)**Dear Friends,**

Earlier this week, I was sworn in for my third term in the State Assembly. I was extremely proud to be joined by my partner John Flores, my mother, my brother and his family, and my staff.

I'm excited about the coming session of the legislature and am already off to a strong start with Speaker Núñez reappointing me as Chair of the Budget Committee and my colleagues in the LGBT Caucus naming me Caucus Chair. Moments after being sworn in, I introduced two bills on issues of primary importance to me, one to provide health insurance for every child in California and one to strengthen civil rights protections in a number of important ways—see below for more on these two bills.

I'm looking forward to a productive two years ahead, serving the State of California and the people of the Monterey Bay and Central Coast.

### **Laird Introduces Bill to Provide Health Coverage for All California Kids**

“As the legislature reconvened this week for a new two-year session, the planets are close to aligning to extend universal health coverage to all of California’s kids. Up to now, the only thing universal about this issue has been political defeat at every turn. But there is hope coming in 2007 for the nearly 800,000 children who remain uninsured.” [Read John’s full Op-Ed.](#)

“Providing coverage for every kid is not only the right thing to do, it makes sense as a key first step in working toward universal healthcare for all Californians. Working with Senator Steinberg, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, members of the Californians for Health Care coalition and the governor, I’m looking forward to crafting a strong plan that can be quickly implemented.”

[Read the full press release.](#)

**John in the District**

12/9 Association of California School Administrators Meeting, Monterey

12/9 Equality California Meeting, Santa Cruz

12/11 Seniors Commission Meeting, Santa Cruz

12/11 Carmel Unified School District Board Meeting

12/13 San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District Board Meeting

12/14 Childcare Planning Council Meeting, Aptos

12/14 Rail-Trail Symposium, Capitola

**Ratings and Scorecards**

*Children's Advocacy Institute Legislative Report Card*  
—100% score for 2006

*AFSCME Legislative Report Card*—100% score for 2006

*PawPAC, Committee for Animals Legislative Report Card*  
—A+ score for 2006

*Applied Research 2006 Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity*—100% rating

**Santa Cruz County Office**

701 Ocean Street, 318-B  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831-425-1503 (tel)

## Civil Rights Act of 2007

“Throughout California law there remain significant gaps in civil rights protections for Californians, leaving people vulnerable to discrimination in a wide variety of situations. AB 14 strengthens dozens of codes so they are indexed to the strongest level of protection in state law.

The bill will strengthen and clarify 51 provisions in state law by referencing the strongest standards of nondiscrimination protection, which include: race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, disability, medical condition, marital status, sex (including gender identity) and sexual orientation.”

[Read the full press release.](#)

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## One Ear to the Tracks: A Symposium on Potential Rail and Trail Systems for Santa Cruz County

Nationally recognized rail and trail experts will participate in a forum **moderated by Assemblymember John Laird**.

Hosted by: People Power, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, the Campaign for Sensible Transportation, Friends of the Rail Trail, the Sierra Club, New Leaf Community Markets, the Weiss-Penzias family, and the cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola and Watsonville.

Speakers:

- Mike Hart, owner of Sierra Railroad
- Michael Jones, principal author of the authoritative guide to rail with trail facilities in the United States
- Bill Burgel, vice president of rail operations of HDR Consulting in Portland, Oregon
- David Nelson of the Transportation Research Board
- Debbie Hale, director of Monterey County Transportation Commission
- George Dondero, director of Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission

Thursday, December 14th  
Jade Street Park Community Center, 4400 Jade Street, Capitola  
6–6:30pm: Marimba music and socializing  
6:30 – 8:30pm: Speakers and discussion  
Info: 831-425-0665 or [www.peoplepowersc.org](http://www.peoplepowersc.org)

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831-425-2570 (fax)

### **Monterey/Santa Clara County Office**

99 Pacific Street, 555D  
Monterey, CA 93940  
831-649-2832 (tel)  
831-649-2935 (fax)  
408-782-0647 (Santa Clara County Direct Line)

### **Capitol Office**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA  
94249-0027  
916-319-2027 (tel)  
916-319-2127 (fax)